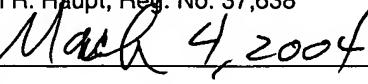




CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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Keith R. Haupt, Reg. No. 37,638


Date

Serial No.: 10/765,265
Filed: January 27, 2004
Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Applicant: Murray B. Blumberg and Eric R. DeBeer
Title: BINDING OF A SHEET OF PAPER
Conf. No.: Unknown

Cincinnati, Ohio

March 4, 2004

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBMISSION OF CERTIFIED PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Sir:

Enclosed find the certified priority document in the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

By: 

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Sertifikaat

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PATENT KANTOOR
DEPARTEMENT VAN HANDEL
EN NYWERHEID



Certificate

REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

PATENT OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

Hiermee word gesertifiseer dat
This is to certify that

the documents annexed hereto are true copies of:

Application form P.1, provisional specification and drawings of South African Patent Application No. 2003/2509 as originally filed in the Republic of South Africa on 31 March 2003 in the name of PRESS PRODUCTS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED for an invention entitled: "BINDING A SHEET OF PAPER".

Getekен te in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, hierdie
Signed at PRETORIA in the Republic of South Africa, this 25th dag van
February 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. G. Goepfert".
Registrar of Patents

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
PATENTS ACT, 1978
APPLICATION FOR A PATENT AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT
(Section 30(1) Regulation 22)

FORM P1 JUDGMENT OF THE COURT
(to be lodged in duplicate)

THE GRANT OF A PATENT IS HEREBY REQUESTED BY THE UNDERMENTIONED APPLICANT
ON THE BASIS OF THE PRESENT APPLICATION FILED IN DUPLICATE

31.3.03

06000

21 01 PATENT APPLICATION NO

200372509

A&A REF: V15673 AL/MJS/vd

71 FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)

PRESS PRODUCTS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED

ADDRESS(ES) OF APPLICANT(S)

Bosman Road, cnr Cross Street, Ophirton, Johannesburg,
Gauteng Province, Republic of South Africa

54 TITLE OF INVENTION

"BINDING A SHEET OF PAPER"

Only the items marked with an "X" in the blocks below are applicable.

THE APPLICANT CLAIMS PRIORITY AS SET OUT ON THE ACCOMPANYING FORM P.2. The earliest priority claimed is
Country: No: Date:
 THE APPLICATION IS FOR A PATENT OF ADDITION TO PATENT APPLICATION NO 21 01
 THIS APPLICATION IS A FRESH APPLICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 37 AND BASED ON
APPLICATION NO 21 01

THIS APPLICATION IS ACCCOMPANIED BY:

A single copy of a provisional specification of 9 pages
 Drawings of 2 sheets
Publication particulars and abstract (Form P.8 in duplicate) (for complete only)
A copy of Figure of the drawings (if any) for the abstract (for complete only)
An assignment of invention (TO FOLLOW)
Certified priority document(s). (State quantity)
Translation of the priority document(s)
An assignment of priority rights
A copy of Form P.2 and the specification of RSA Patent Application No 21 01
 Form P.2 in duplicate
A declaration and power of attorney on Form P.3 (TO FOLLOW)
Request for ante-dating on Form P.4
Request for classification on Form P.9
Request for delay of acceptance on Form P.4
Extra copy of informal drawings (for complete only)

74 ADDRESS FOR SERVICE: Adams & Adams, Pretoria

Dated this 31st day of March 2003

ALAN LEWIS
ADAMS & ADAMS
APPLICANTS PATENT ATTORNEYS

The duplicate will be returned to the applicant's address for service as
proof of lodging but is not valid unless endorsed with official stamp

OFFICIAL DATE STAMP
REGISTRAR OF PATENTS, DESIGNS,
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2003-03-31
REGISTRATEUR VAN PATENTE, MODELLE,
HANDELSMERKE EN OUTEURSREG
REGISTRE DES MARQUES DE PATENTS

ADAMS & ADAMS
PATENT ATTORNEYS
PRETORIA

FORM P6

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Patents Act, 1978

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION
(Section 30 (1) - Regulation 27)

| | | |
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| 21 | 01 | OFFICIAL APPLICATION NO |
|----|----|-------------------------|

| | |
|----|--------------|
| 22 | LODGING DATE |
|----|--------------|

2003/2509

31 March 2003

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| 71 | FULL NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S) |
|----|------------------------------|

PRESS PRODUCTS (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED

| | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 72 | FULL NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S) |
|----|-----------------------------|

1. BLUMBERG, Murray Basil
2. DE BEER, Eric Rodney

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 54 | TITLE OF INVENTION |
|----|--------------------|

"BINDING A SHEET OF PAPER"

THIS INVENTION relates to the binding of sheets of paper, in particular, calendars. More particularly, this invention relates to a method of, and an apparatus for, fastening a binding strip to a sheet of paper, such as a calendar.

According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of binding a sheet of paper which includes the steps of

feeding an end of a sheet of paper to be bound into a partially folded elongate binding strip which defines a longitudinal axis and has two portions angularly disposed to each other, the end of the sheet of paper being fed in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the binding strip into a region between the two portions; and

mating the end of the sheet of paper and the binding strip, with the end of the sheet of paper located in the region between the two portions.

The method may include the further step of securing the end of the sheet of paper between the two portions, by a reciprocal operation. In so doing

the binding strip may be folded and crimped, in known manner.

The method may include the prior step of locating the end of the sheet of paper at an edge of the binding strip between the portions to facilitate feeding thereof into the binding strip.

The method may include the further prior step of forming the metal strip. Thus, the method may include the steps of:

providing a length of metal workpiece;
folding the length of metal workpiece about a fold line parallel to a longitudinal axis thereof to form the binding strip having two portions angularly disposed to each other about the fold line.

The method may be continuous or intermittent.

The method may include the further step of binding an opposed end of the sheet of paper parallel to the bound end. Thus, the method may include the step of displacing the sheet of paper in the feeding direction, or parallel thereto, after the first end of the sheet of paper has been secured to the binding strip, to effect binding of the opposed end of the sheet of paper in a manner as described above.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the length of the sheet of paper decreases when a binding strip is secured to an end thereof. The method

may accommodate this in a suitable way. Thus, the sheet of paper may be provided with a curve, or the sheet of paper may be moved transversely, or a securing mechanism for securing the binding strip thereto may be moved back and forth.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided an apparatus for binding a sheet of paper, which includes:

a feed means for feeding an end of the sheet of paper to be bound into a partially folded binding strip which defines a longitudinal axis and has two portions angularly disposed about a fold line, in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the binding strip; and

a reciprocal securing means for securing the metal strip to the end of the sheet of paper.

The reciprocal securing means may fold or crimp the strip, in known manner.

The apparatus may include a supply means for supplying the binding strips. The supply means may include a hopper for the binding strips.

Instead, the apparatus may include forming equipment for forming the binding strips from lengths of metal workpieces.

The apparatus may further include a displacement means for

displacing the sheet of paper after the strip has been bound thereto, in the feeding direction, or parallel thereto.

The apparatus may include guide means for keeping the sheet of paper in alignment during the binding process.

The apparatus may include a second feed means for feeding an opposed end of the sheet of paper into a further binding strip.

The apparatus may also include releasable tensioning means to facilitate binding of the opposed end of the sheet of paper by providing a curve on the sheet of paper or moving the sheet of paper transversely. Thus, when the opposed end of the sheet of paper has been fed into the binding strip and mated therewith, the tensioning means will allow the opposed end to be secured thereto whilst accommodating the decrease in length of the sheet of paper, with the already bound first end being supported without tearing of the sheet of paper.

The apparatus may further include a second displacement means for displacing the sheet of paper after the opposed end thereof has been bound. The displacement means may include an ejection mechanism.

As indicated above, the sheet of paper may be a calendar.

The invention will now be described by way of example, with

reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings.

In the drawings

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of an apparatus for binding a sheet of paper such as a calendar, in accordance with the invention; and

Figure 2 is schematic representation of another embodiment of an apparatus for binding a sheet of paper such as a calendar, in accordance with the invention.

Referring to the drawings, reference numeral 10 refers generally to an apparatus for binding a sheet of paper such as a calendar, in accordance with the invention. The apparatus 10 includes a station 12 for receiving a supply of sheets of paper, which in this case are calendars, a feed means (not shown) for feeding an end of a calendar to be bound from the station 12, a supply 16 in the form of a hopper for supplying binding strips, and a reciprocal securing mechanism 18 for securing the binding strip to the calendar. The apparatus 10 also includes a second feed means (also not shown) for feeding an opposed end of the calendar into a further binding strip provided by further supply means 22, a further securing mechanism 24 for securing the opposed end of the calendar into the further binding strip and a displacement or discharge station (also not shown) for discharging the calendar from the apparatus 10 once both ends thereof have been bound with the binding strips.

In use, an end 30 of a calendar 32 is fed from the supply of calendars

12 into a partially folded elongate binding strip 34 in position in the securing mechanism 18, having two portions angularly disposed to each other. The end 30 of the calendar 32 is fed into a region between the two portions in a direction shown by the arrow at 14 which direction is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the binding strip 34. The binding strip 34 is then secured to the end 30 of the calendar 32 by the securing mechanism 18. The strip 34, with an end portion of the calendar therein, is crimped and folded, in known manner, with the result that the length of the calendar 32 is shortened. It will be appreciated that the calendar 32 will move towards the securing mechanism 18 when the binding strip 34 is secured thereto.

Once the end 30 of the calendar 32 has been secured to the binding strip 34, the calendar 32, with the binding strip 34 thereon, is fed in the direction shown at 20 towards the further securing mechanism 24. A strip 36 is supplied from the hopper 22 and positioned in the securing mechanism 24 as shown such that the opposed end 38 is fed into the region between the two portions of the partially folded strip 36, in a direction shown by the arrow at 20. The strip 36 is then secured to the opposed end 38 of the calendar 32 by the securing mechanism 24 again with the result that the length of the calendar 32 with the strip 36 secured thereto is decreased.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, that the securing mechanism 24 may be arranged such as to be transversely moveable in the directions shown by the arrows 40 to accommodate different lengths of calendars

32. It will be appreciated that the calendar 32 will again move towards the securing mechanism 24 when the binding strip 36 is secured thereto. Instead, the calendar 32 may be held stationary, with the securing mechanism 24 moving inwardly to accommodate the change in length of the calendar 32.

Referring to Figure 2 of the drawings, reference numeral 50 refers generally to another embodiment of the apparatus for binding a calendar in accordance with the invention. The apparatus 50 includes a supply of calendars 52, a feed means (not shown) for feeding a calendar to be bound into a looping station 56 in which a loop or curve is created in the middle of the calendar, a second feed means (also not shown) for feeding ends of the looped or curved calendar into partially folded binding strips 76 and 78 in reciprocal securing mechanisms 60 and 62, supply hoppers 64 and 66 for supplying partially folded binding strips to the securing mechanisms 60 and 62, and a displacement or discharge station (also not shown) for discharging the calendar which has been bound on both its ends with the binding strip.

In use, a calendar 70 having opposed ends 72 and 74 is fed from the supply of calendar 52 towards the looping station 56 in the direction shown by arrow 54, wherein a curve 76 is created in the calendar 70. The opposed ends 72 and 74 of the looped calendar 70 are then fed into the partially folded binding strips 78 and 80 positioned in the securing mechanisms 60 and 62. The binding strips 78 and 80 are then secured to the opposed ends 72 and 74 and the bound calendar is discharged from the apparatus. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art,

that the curve 78 in the calendar will decrease during the securement of the binding strips 78 and 80 to the opposed ends 72 and 74.

The process is continuous such that when the binding strips 78 and 80 are being bound by the securing mechanisms 60 and 62, a new calendar is being fed into the looping station 56.

In a variation of the embodiment shown in Figure 2, the securing mechanisms 60 and 62 may comprise moveable heads, the heads being moveable backwards and forwards relative to one another. Thus, in this embodiment, the apparatus 50 may be provided with or without the looping station.

DATED THIS 31st DAY OF MARCH 2003

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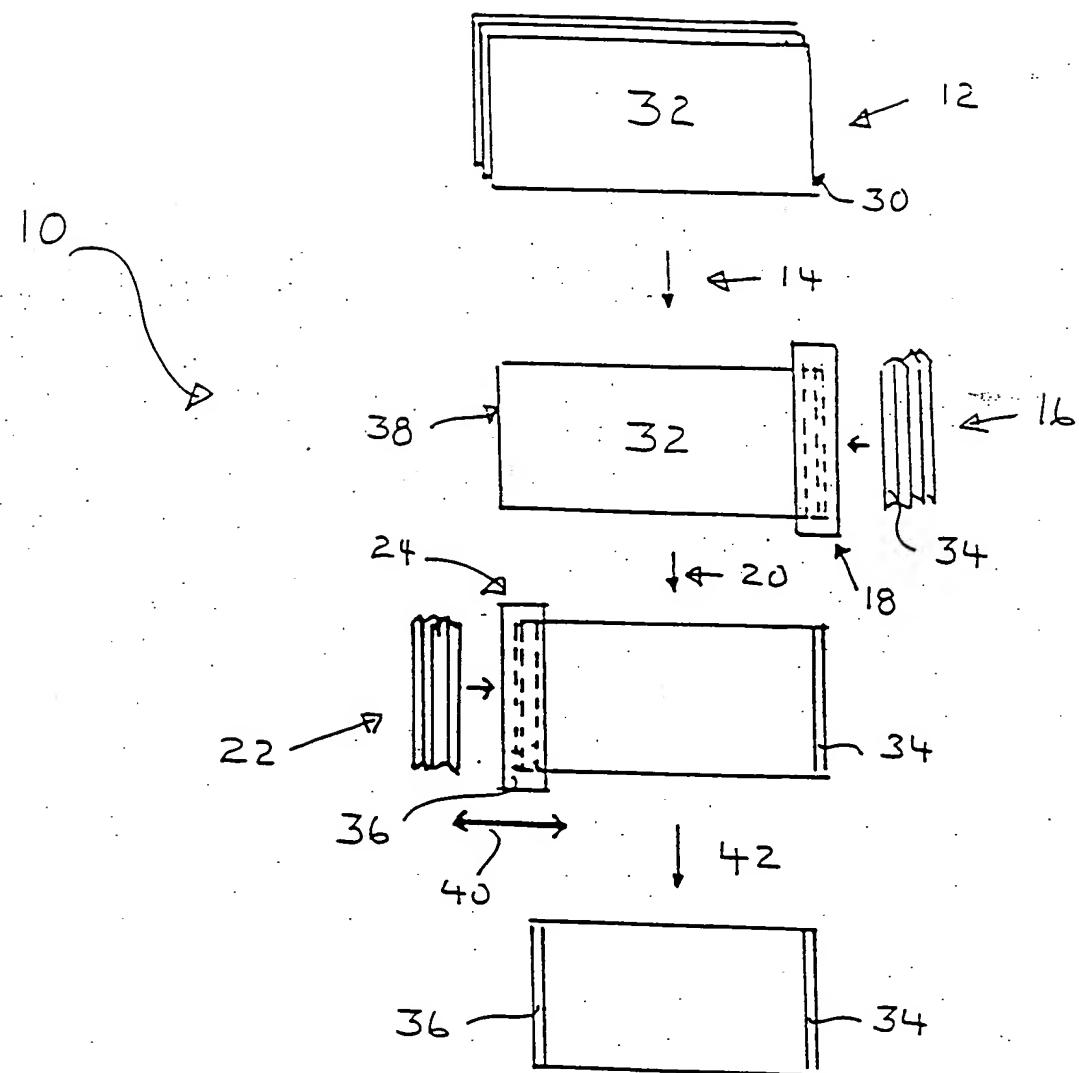


FIG. 1

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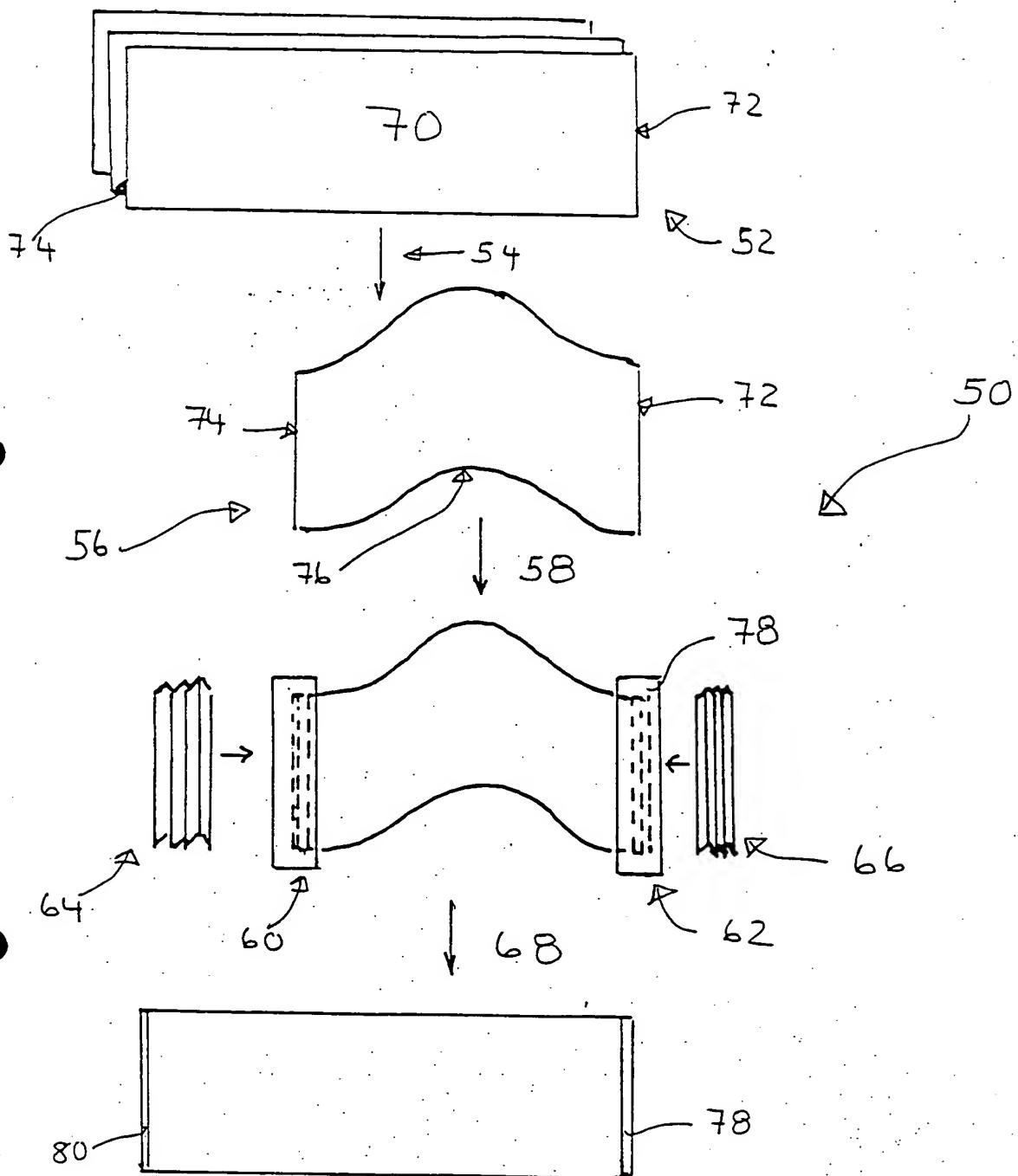


FIG. 2